

Remarks

Claims 1-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Murase (US 6,366,732) and Ohishi (US 6,169,846). This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Claim 1 is patentable over the combination of Murase and Ohishi, since claim 1 recites a bit stream buffering and demultiplexing apparatus including, in part, a demultiplexer for demultiplexing a coded program stream into a plurality of elementary streams; and an audio still video object address pointer table for storing address locations of demultiplexed audio still video program streams and storing syntax error information, wherein the demultiplexer is further for performing syntax error checking of an audio still video program stream during the demultiplexing of the coded program stream, and storing resultant syntax error information obtained by the syntax error checking in the audio still video object address pointer table. The combination of Murase and Ohishi fails to disclose or suggest the demultiplexer as recited in claim 1.

Murase discloses a DVD player including a signal processing unit 84, a system controlling unit 93, and an AV decoding unit 85. The AV decoding unit 85 includes a signal separating unit 86, a video decoder 87, a sub-picture decoder 88, an audio decoder 89 and a picture mixing unit 90. The signal processing unit 84 converts signals read from a DVD into digital data which is input to the system controlling unit 93. The system controlling unit 93 then sends the digital data to the AV decoding unit 85 in units of logical blocks (VOBs). The AV decoding unit 85 includes a signal separating unit 86 that classifies the digital data into management information data, moving picture data, sub-picture data, and audio data, and outputs the moving picture data to the video decoder 87, the management information data, as a management information pack 101, back to the system controlling unit 93, the audio data to the audio decoder 89, and the sub-picture data to the sub-picture decoder 88. (See column 28, line 54 – column 29 – 34 and Figure 24).

In the rejection, the signal separating unit 86 is relied upon as corresponding to the claimed demultiplexer. However, as admitted in the rejection, it is apparent that the signal separating unit 86 in Murase fails to perform syntax error checking of an audio still video program stream during demultiplexing of the digital data, and storing resultant syntax error information obtained by the syntax error checking in an audio still video object address pointer

table. As a result, Ohishi is relied upon as disclosing these features of the demultiplexer of claim 1.

Regarding Ohishi, it discloses a recording apparatus that includes a demultiplexer and error correction section 1 and a discrimination information judgment section 5. The demultiplexer and error correction section 1 receives a compressed video signal Sa, demultiplexes the data of the compressed video signal Sa to extract information necessary for error correction, executes error correction, and supplies a resultant error corrected compressed video signal Sb to the discrimination information judgment section 5. The discrimination information judgment section 5 detects syntax information that is contained in the compressed video signal Sb and produces a corresponding discrimination information signal 5a. (See column 7, line 46 – column 8, line 37 and Figure 6).

In the rejection, the demultiplexer and error correction section 1 is relied upon as corresponding to the demultiplexer of claim 1. However, while the demultiplexer and error correction section 1 is indicated as performing demultiplexing of the compressed video signal Sa to extract the information necessary for error correction and performing error correction based on the extracted information, there is absolutely no disclosure or suggestion in Ohishi that the demultiplexer and error correction section 1 performs syntax error checking of the compressed video signal Sa and storing resultant syntax error information. Instead, the discrimination information judgment section 5 is only disclosed as detecting syntax information that is contained in the compressed video signal Sb. Based on this discussion, it is clear that the demultiplexer and error correction section 1, either along or in conjunction with the discrimination information judgment section 5, does not operate in the same manner as the demultiplexer recited in claim 1. As a result, Ohishi fails to address the deficiency of Murase, and the combination of Murase and Ohishi fails to render claim 1 obvious.

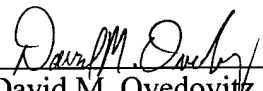
As for claims 8 and 9, they are patentable over the combination of Murase and Ohishi for reasons similar to those set forth above in support of claim 1. That is, claims 8 and 9 each recite, in part, performing syntax error checking of an audio still video program stream during the demultiplexing of a coded program stream, whereby resultant syntax error information obtained by the syntax error checking is stored in an audio still video object address pointer table, which features are not disclosed or suggested by the references.

Because of the above-mentioned distinctions, it is believed clear that claims 1-9 are patentable over the references relied upon in the rejection. Furthermore, it is submitted that the distinctions are such that a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention would not have been motivated to make any combination of the references of record in such a manner as to result in, or otherwise render obvious, the present invention as recited in claims 1-9. Therefore, it is submitted that claims 1-9 are clearly allowable over the prior art of record.

In view of the above remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that there are issues remaining which must be resolved before allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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